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THE NEW YORK STATE ECONOMIC COUNCIL

An association of citizens
of all ranks who take active
part in federal, state and
local affairs, and seek to:

1. curb government spending
2. reduce oppressive taxation
3. oppose subversive groups
4. oppose stifling restriction of
private enterprise
5. promote true recovery

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NEW YORK STATE ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Established 1931

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17 East 42nd Street, New York City

Treasurer

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Chairman Finance Committee

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New York City

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Chairman Corning Glass Works, Elmira, N. Y.

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Membership: Anyone who lives by American private enterprise—who chooses to work for a living without leaning on government—may be a member; big and little business, employer and employees, men and women in the professions or arts, farmers and workers.

Support: We are supported by voluntary subscriptions from \$1 up, averaging something over \$40. We are financed by no special group

Purpose: We believe in the American System of Private Enterprise, and work for its continued existence. We seek to curb government spending, to prevent the further imposition of burdens upon enterprise, and to remove some already existing.

We aim to interpret the needs of private enterprise to government—to show private citizens how they can take an effective part in

public affairs—to make intelligent suggestions to federal, state and local governments.

Operation: We function on a very simple formula. We give constituents an opportunity to convey their views on pending bills to their legislators through concerted action.

We do this through our Council Letters, other pamphlets, and press releases—by speaking at public meetings, and broadcasting over radio chains—by circulating petitions—by advising our members when important legislation is to come up so that they may directly express their views before it is too late—by speaking before important legislative committees. We watch and report on legislative matters at Washington and Albany. We make first-hand investigations of facts in controversial matters.

WORK DONE

We believe this country is suffering from too many hasty laws and too much government meddling. We therefore reckon our success quite as much in terms of mischief we have blocked as in terms of laws we have pushed. Some things we have done in the past are:

Educational Advisory Committee: Five nationally known educators made a two-year study of the cost and quality of public education in certain New York cities. School authorities consider their reports highly important. They were a factor leading to the appointment by the Board of Regents of this Committee to make a state-wide study. This Committee will shortly make its report.

Control of Youth Amendment: We tagged the so-called "child labor" amendment with this truer title and exposed its insincere character. We made first-hand investigations of claims of child labor in Carolina and Massachusetts, and proved them unfounded. Defeat of this amendment in the New York State legislature meant its defeat in the nation, and the blocking of another costly government bureau with infinitely dangerous power over all persons up to 18. Miss Dorothy Thompson wrote that the Council was one of the two factors responsible for its defeat.

Funded Debt of New York: In 1933-36 we made careful studies and charts of the growth of the state debt,—widely distributed among business men, students and economists.

Change of Fiscal Year: The state's fiscal year now begins July 1st. We urged a change to April 1st, nearer the date of the adoption of the budget and the collection of taxes. The Moffat Commission has just adopted this.

Pay-as-you-go Basis: We have unremittingly urged an end to state bond issues and that the state should go on a pay-as-you-go basis. This has now become the chief recommendation of the Moffat Commission.

Opposition to Subversive Groups: Tracing crackpot government spending and unworkable legislation to their source, we have found ourselves arrayed against subversive radical groups. Some of our more conservative members formerly disagreed with us on this,

but it is now becoming generally recognized that this is the source of many of our troubles. The Communist Party recently honored our Utica office with a picket line. Evidently, we have done some good.

Radio and Platform Speeches: We have broadcast over all the big chains, have debated on the platform and over the air, and have sponsored many talks at public and private meetings. We act as a clearing house of information for more and more aroused citizens.

Committee for American Private Enterprise: We have popularized the term "private enterprise," and brought it into general use. Since 1935, we have carried on a campaign for the revival of private enterprise, through national radio-chains, meetings, and committee work. We believe we have led the country to realize that saving private enterprise is the great problem of the day.

WORK IN HAND

In January and February, 1938, we have engaged in the following major activities:

Control-of-Youth Amendment: Again we opposed this at Albany. The Assembly defeated it by an even larger margin than last year.

State Budget: We opposed Governor Lehman's budget that is higher even than last year. The Council was practically the only organization that appeared at the hearing to protest this \$386,000,000 spending program.

Pegging-rate-of-wage Law: We asked for repeal of this measure which adds tens of millions each year to the cost of public works in New York State; and by pegging the cost of private construction at a high rate effectively keeps the construction industry at a low point. This results in keeping men out of work, relief costs high, and recovery retarded.

Norris Amendment: We opposed before the Judiciary Committee of the U. S. Senate the Norris amendment to the Federal Constitution. This bill seeks to abolish the three carefully-thought-out methods of amending the Constitution and to substitute as a sole method the ratification of amendments by putting them on the state ballot at a general election. The joker in this is that rarely more than 15% to 25% of the voters ever vote on such issues at all, and an amendment could be put over by a well-regimented minority. This measure is almost as dangerous as the court packing plan of last year. Few people know about it.

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A quarter of our national income is now taken by government in taxes. It will run more than a quarter this year, if the slump continues. This means that citizens have less to spend for themselves. Meantime, government, through stifling restrictions on business, is making it more difficult for citizens to earn any money at all.

This hasn't just happened. We are convinced that the government in Washington and in many states has come under the influence

of a group of radicals who take their orders from Moscow.

Senator Copeland's Committee on Commerce of the United States Senate has indicated that Communism controls our merchant marine. Communistic minds have written some most vital laws. Both major parties at Albany now seem to be bidding for the Communistic support of the American Labor Party.

These forces in our nation will not die on themselves. Eventually, they are doomed. But unless we rouse ourselves now in defense, they will give us a bad time. In National Prohibition, we had a sharp lesson of how a well organized minority with a clear purpose can put over dangerous legislation. It took us fourteen years to put prohibition out of business. These forces are infinitely more dangerous. Recovery cannot take place until they are exposed and put to rout.

There is work to be done by an aggressive and well-informed body like the Council. A keen business man recently said, "If there were no New York State Economic Council, we would have to form one."

This is no time to turn our eyes away from ugly facts. It is time to face things as they are.

We ask the support of all true Americans.

Make checks payable to New York State Economic Council, 17 East 42nd Street, New York

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